

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 10-13, 14-16, 18-19, and 27-31 remain in this application. Claims 3, 8, 9, 13 and 17 were previously canceled. Claims 20-26 are canceled by this amendment. Claims 1, 11, and 27 are amended to more distinctly describe the subject matter of applicant's invention.

Claim Objections

The objections to claims 10, 12, 18, 19, 25, 27, and 30 due to certain informalities have been addressed as required.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 102

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 10-12, 14-16, 18-20 and 23-31 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Paterson et al (US Patent No. 6,412,042). The rejection as applied to the remaining claims is respectfully traversed.

Remaining independent claims 1, 11, and 27 have been amended to claim a deferred write feature that is accomplished by the controller. Support for this amendment to claims 1, 11, and 27 can be found in the specification at pages 15 and 16. The deferred write feature accomplished by the controller solves the problem of stalled operations when using the claimed invention, which is supported by the specification at page 16, lines 4-7. This feature is not described in Paterson et al. For these reasons claims 1, 11, and 27 are deemed to be allowable under 35 USC 102(e). The remaining claims are deemed to be allowable as depending, either directly or indirectly, from an allowable base claim.

Rejections under 35 USC 103

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Paterson et al in view of Takahashi et al (US Patent No. 5,707,727). The rejection of claim 7 under 35 USC 103(a) is respectfully traversed. Claim 7 is deemed to be allowable as depending directly from allowable base claim 1, as now amended.

Claims 21-22 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Paterson et al. The rejection of claims 21-22 under 35 USC 103(a) is deemed to be moot as claims 21 and 22 are now canceled.

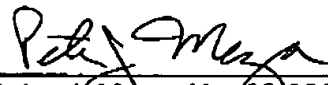
CONCLUSION

In view of all of the above claims 1, 2, 4-7, 10-12, 14-16, 18-19, and 27-31 are believed to be allowable and the case in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

No fee is believed to be required by this response as determined on the accompanying transmittal letter. Should any other fee be required, please charge Deposit 08-2025. Should any extension of time be required please consider this a petition therefor and charge the required fee to Deposit Account 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,

5/8, 2003


Peter J. Meza, No. 32,920
(719) 448-5906 Tel
(303) 899-7333 Fax